



Broadband Legislative Update

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Two Bills:

- SB 1402-Digital Arizona Highways
- SB 1403-Digital Arizona Office

Mission: Establish state statutory foundation for sustainable broadband deployment enabling transforming economic growth, education, healthcare, and business in Arizona.

Primary Approach: Utilize existing state highway rights-of-way to the greatest extent possible—not state general funds—for increasing availability and minimizing costs of broadband services in rural Arizona.

SB 1402 Digital AZ Highways Bill

- According to extensive mapping over the past two years—as reported by 74 Arizona broadband providers—many of Arizona’s rural residents and businesses do not have availability of broadband services.
- Enables private sector providers to extend broadband services to rural Arizonians by expanding use of existing state roadway rights-of-way.
- Expands existing rules governing ADOT’s management of state ROW to make available conduits in the ADOT ROW to private providers on a cost-recovery basis.
- Does not require changes in ADOT’s operational procedures and is consistent with ADOT’s requirement to ensure roadway safety.
- Honors mandate that no highway funds are expended for non-highway purposes.

SB 1403 Digital AZ Infrastructure Office

- Creates a self-sustaining Arizona Broadband Office with non-paid directors
- Directors oversee administration of the ADOT broadband conduits
- Coordinate complex, multi-jurisdictional discussions that take place when broadband infrastructure is being planned and utilized
- Single point of contact for statewide broadband policies, standards, procedures, agreements and grants
- Interacts with private sector on volunteer
- Impose no regulations
- Housed in AZ Department of Administration

SB 1402 and SB 1403 Bill Status

- Dropped in the Arizona Senate
- First, Second and Third Reads
- Senate Committee Hearing scheduled Feb. 14
- SB1402 Introduced and Co-Sponsored by
 - **Senators** Driggs: Allen, Griffin, McComish, Melvin, Nelson, Shooter, Smith;
 - **Representatives** Barton, Brophy McGee, Forese, Harper, Jones, Pierce
- SB1403 Introduced and Co-Sponsored by
 - **Senators** Driggs: Allen, Griffin, McComish, Nelson;
 - Representatives** Brophy McGee, Forese, Jones, Pierce

Stakeholder Concerns

- Is this Good Public Policy?
- Is the bill language well thought-out?
- Are the bills acceptable to
 - ADOT
 - Local and regional planners
 - Tribal entities
 - Counties
 - Cities and Towns
 - Electrical utilities, including private, public and Coops
 - Water utilities, including CAP
 - Gas utilities
 - Providers, large, small, traditional and new entrants

Stakeholder Support

- Supporters
 - Senator Driggs dropped the bills—with 16 Senate and House co-sponsors
 - Representative Gray is primary House sponsor
 - AZ Telecommunications and Information Council is sponsoring the bills
 - Former Senator Bob Burns Acting as Legislative Liaison
 - ADOT has contributed significantly to the language in both bills
 - AZ Tech Council's Public Policy Committee—voted to unanimous support
 - Superintendent Huppenthal & Educational establishment—support
 - League of Cities and Towns supportive
 - Rural COGs are supportive
 - Universities (Regents)
 - Hopis are supportive (Representing many rural tribes)
 - Rural Communities' Council members
 - Intel
- CenturyLink & Cox contributed significantly to the language in both bills
- No Opposition from Urban cities (Tempe contributed to language)

Questions?